

**Movie:** Cloverfield (2008)

### **Synopsis**

Similar to Mary Shelley's classic, *Cloverfield's* title is not taken from the monster. It's the name of a government case revealed by found footage located in area US447 (Central Park). The video reveals a deep-sea creature with an unknown evolutionary history. The species has a very long life-span and is still an infant during the events of the film (despite being alive for thousands of years). It grew to its giant size through consuming large amounts of Seabed's Nectar, a natural steroid-like substance.

The monster rampages through Manhattan, destroying the city in its path. This destruction causes the US government to sacrifice New York City (homage to *Escape from New York*, 1981) in an attempt to kill the monster (Hammerdown protocol).

### **How it relates to the field of psychiatry**

Tagruato sent several submarines six miles to the ocean floor to study the monster. This action disturbed the creature from its sleep, and in an anxious state, it destroyed the station and proceeded towards Manhattan. Given that the monster was an infant (Frankenstein's monster), its rampage is analogous to a child's non-verbal communication when separated from its mother. As such, *Cloverfield* may be viewed as a case study of Separation Anxiety Disorder. This recalls real-life elephants that get frightened and lash out at the circus, because Matt Reeves felt "there's nothing scarier than something huge that's spooked."

**Key Words:** Cloverfield, Frankenstein, Escape from New York, Social Anxiety Disorder

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